what is the response of various States/ Union Territories to the proposal to set up police complaint authorities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): Government has decided to set up a Police Complaint Authority in NCT of Delhi to act as an independent body responsible for speedy redressal of complaints of the Public against acts of ommission and commission on part of the members of the Delhi Police and to recommend such action as considered necessary for the removal of such grievances. It is also proposed to advise the State Governments to set up such Authorities, shortly.

Technical Personnel leaving DRDO

*457. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether experienced technical personnel have been leaving the Defence Research and Development Organisation in large numbers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of technical personnel who have left DRDO during the last three years;

(d) whether this has adversely affec'ted scientific research on Defence; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to stop this brain-drain?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) About 3% of total strength of scientists and engineers have been leaving Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) every year. However, fast recruitment drive has been mounted through open advertisement, campus recruitment, quick induction of meritorious candidates and research fellows to compensate this shortfall.

(b) Though scientists/engineers in DRDO are assigned challenging tasks, certain percentage of them are leaving to join multi-national companies for better compensation (attractive salary and perks).

(c) Year-wise details of scientists/ engineers who left DRDO, including resignations and voluntary retirement, are given below:

Year	No. of Scientists/engineers
1994	148
1995	177
1996	162

(d) No, Sir.

(c) Improvements are being proposed in the terms and conditions of service, as admissible to these Scientists.

Pay Commission Recommendation to augment the strength of armed forces

•458. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission for reversing the greying trends in the Armed Forces and to augment their strength, by making up the deficiency in ranks, indicating the present status of deficiency of officers in the different forces; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The present deficiency

position for the three Services is given below:-

	Officers	Personnel below officer rank
Army Navy	12,972	55,263
Air Force	690	2,782
	1,045	5,876

The Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended improvement in pay scales allowances and service conditions of the Service personnel so as to help attract youth in larger numbers to opt for a career in the Armed Forces. The Commission has also made, inter-alia, the following suggestions:—

(i) A starting salary of Rs. 8250/- p.m. for commissioned officers of the Armed Forces giving them an edge over the civilian services. Cadets during the period of training Service Academies may be given a stipend of Rs. 8000/ p.m. against the existing stipend of Rs. 1500/-p.m. granted in the last six months of training.

(ii) Efforts may be made by the Armed Forces to give wide publicity through the media highlighting the advantages and special benefits available in the career in Armed Forces, (in) Students from Military Schools and Sainik Schools may be considered for direct entry into the Armed Forces.

(iv) Armed Forces may conduct a review of the strength of Services officers on deputation and permanent secondment to other organisations.

(v) An increase in the reservation quota for ex-service personnel in Central Police Organisations.

(vi) Grant of assured career promotion scheme to officers and personnel below officer rank (PBOR)-

(vii) Reduction in time taken for substantive promotion of Service officers.

(viii) Increase in weightage in qualifying service for-pension etc. etc.

The recommendations of the Pay Commission are under consideration of the Government. Meanwhile, Government will soon launch an image projection campaign for the Army to attract the youth by highlighting the positive features of the Army.

Irregularities in Purchase of Digital Exchanges

*459. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irregularities have been pointed out by the CAG in regard to purchases of digital exhanges worth Rs. 600 crores by India from multinationals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The CAG has pointed out certain irregularities in procurement of switching equipment in his report for the period ending 31st March, 1996.

(b) The details thereof are as follows: (i) 8.9 lakh lines of equipment was purchased by the DOT based on a tender for only 2 lakh lines, (ii) Excess lease payment of Rs. 30.75 crores over a period of 8 years due to failure to take into consideration the reduction in custom duty in 1994-95 Budget. Besides, avoidable